

There was no objection.

CONGRATULATING ACWORTH, GEORGIA

(Mr. GINGREY of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the city of Acworth, Georgia, for being recognized as an All-American City in the recent contest sponsored by the National Civic League.

Acworth is part of Georgia's 11th Congressional District, the district that I am privileged to represent. And after spending a good bit of time around town, I can tell you that Acworth truly embodies what is best about America.

The city recently raised \$1 million to build a special needs field which will give kids with disabilities a chance to play sports. Acworth's police department and citizens ran the bases of one of these fields for 24 hours as part of a fundraiser to build the facility. The finalists in the All-American contest traveled to Kansas City to give presentations on their efforts. Acworth sent 40 members of their delegation, along with 25 special needs children, and finished in the top 10.

Mr. Speaker, I want to offer my congratulations to the Acworth community, as I am very proud to represent this city in Congress.

WASHINGTON WEEK

(Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, we have had a good week, and I am very grateful we had the opportunity today to say to the doctors of America that we are committed to your practice and your medicine and your caring for our seniors.

In addition, we were able to say to Iran, which has called for the extinguishing of Israel, has caused the existence of Camp Ashraf in Iraq, and literally has tried to destroy dissidents and resisters for democracy, that we will not tolerate an Iran that is nuclear-armed. And so I am glad that we passed the Iran Sanctions Act.

But we have more to do. And I am grateful that the President saw fit to change command in Afghanistan. It is unfortunate that the commands of the commander in chief were not respected, but we know that this is a civilian government and the military respects the civilian leadership. That must be. But now we must turn to establishing a pathway out of Afghanistan. We must go after the terrorists that threaten us, but we must recognize a smart power, political power, diplomatic power, empowering the people, providing for education is the way to solve the Afghanistan problem, not 30,000 soldiers that are engaged in war.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MORAN of Kansas addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. TOWNS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. TOWNS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

IN MEMORIAM: U.S. ARMY SPECIALIST BLAINE E. REDDING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. FORTENBERRY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday morning, under the beautiful prairie sky, U.S. Army Specialist Blaine Edward Redding was laid to rest in an old and serene Plattsmouth, Nebraska, cemetery. Specialist Redding was a 22-year-old newlywed, married just 10 weeks to Nikki before a roadside bomb took his life in Afghanistan on June 7. He died along with four other soldiers, two of whom were his close friends.

Blaine Redding followed a family tradition of service to our Nation, in the footsteps of his father and grandfather. Heeding the call to duty was also important to Blaine's younger brother, Private Logan Redding, who was also serving in Afghanistan in the 101st Airborne, just 15 miles away. Upon learning of his brother's death, Private Redding dutifully escorted Blaine's flag-dragged coffin back to Dover Air Force Base to meet their parents, Teresa and Pete, as well as Nikki.

Mr. Speaker, at the funeral, dozens of Patriot Guard Riders; children with their mothers, hands over their hearts; saluting veterans; local officials; and hundreds of citizens lined the streets reverently bearing American flags to honor Specialist Redding's sacrifice. A hand-painted sign read, "Thank you, Blaine."

Also in attendance were Sally Allen and Monica Alexander, two mothers from nearby towns whose sons were killed during their service in Iraq. They came just to show their support.

By the many heartwarming accounts I heard from his loved ones on Tuesday, he was a beloved son, friend, and husband. He cared deeply about his family and his country. He had served before in Iraq, and volunteered for another tour of duty in Afghanistan.

Mr. Speaker, my heart is heavy with the loss of Specialist Redding. I am

deeply humbled by his service and his sacrifice, and I wish God's blessings upon him and his family during this difficult time.

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The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. POE of Texas addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

IN HONOR OF SERGEANT FIRST CLASS ROBERT FIKE AND STAFF SERGEANT BRYAN HOOVER

Mrs. DAHLKEMPER. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to honor the lives of two fallen heroes from western Pennsylvania. Sergeant First Class Robert Fike of Conneautville, and Staff Sergeant Bryan Hoover of Lyndora, Pennsylvania, made the ultimate sacrifice while defending our Nation in Afghanistan.

On June 11, a suicide bomber detonated an explosive near the Bullard Bazaar in Zabul province in southern Afghanistan. Sergeant First Class Fike, 38 years old, and his friend, Staff Sergeant Hoover, 29 years old, were on foot patrol. Both of these brave men were killed in the explosion. They were members of the Pennsylvania Army National Guard's Company C, 1st Battalion, 110th Infantry, based in Conneautville, Pennsylvania.

Sergeants Fike and Hoover shared a passion for service to our country. They were patriots, soldiers, and good men. Robert Fike and Bryan Hoover were friends who fought, and ultimately sacrificed, side by side.

Robert Fike was the third generation of his family to be a member of the Armed Forces. He joined the Pennsylvania National Guard in 1993, after earning a degree in organic chemistry from Edinboro University in 1992. During his long military career, he served two tours overseas, in Saudi Arabia from 2002 to 2003 and in Iraq from 2007 to 2008.

Protecting his community and his country was a way of life for Robert. Every month he drove the 2 hours from his home in Crawford County to Johnstown for specialized drills with the 20th Military Police Company. Robert also worked as a prison guard at the State Correctional Institute in Albion, Pennsylvania.

He was a loving son and father. Robert is survived by his parents, James and Christine, and his 12-year-old daughter Mackenzie. He was a father figure to Chelsea Bliscik and a beloved friend to many.

For his brave service and sacrifice, Sergeant First Class Robert Fike was awarded the Purple Heart, the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, the Armed Forces Reserve Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary and Service Medals, and the Iraq Campaign Medal.